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FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Another Instance of Cannibalism in the Spotted Owl.—The Spotted Owl, *Strix occidentalis* (Xantus), is a rather rare bird in this section of California, judging from the number of skins in southern California collections. Lucky is he who, after a dozen years' work in the field, can place more than one specimen to his credit. For this reason I wish to record one shot by R. D. Jewett in Pacoima Canyon, above the junction with Maple Canyon, back of San Fernando, California.

A pair had been heard the night before, and campers had fired several shots in the direction of the sounds, evidently with results, for on the following night only one bird was in

evidence, continually moving about and calling. This bird was shot within the range of the campfire light, at 10 o'clock in the evening of September 28, 1912. It proved to be a female, with its crop gorged with the fresh remains of a Pigmy Owl (*Glaucidium gnoma pinicola*). One foot, leg, and a mass of feathers was swallowed entire, and bid fair to produce severe injury, as two of the claws had already pierced the crop and the skin of the throat, allowing the contents to ooze forth.

A similar instance is recorded by C. H. Richardson, Jr. (CONDOR, VIII, 1906, p. 57), in which a Spotted Owl was found to have dined on a Pigmy Owl, and considering the rarity of both species, the coincidence is remarkable.—FRANK S. DAGGETT.

A Specimen of Bendire Thrasher in the San Diegoan Region.—On September 10, 1912, Mrs. Harriet Williams Myers placed in my hands a live bird which had proven a puzzle to her in her attempts to identify it. The bird had been picked up helpless in a street of the Garvanza district of Los Angeles, California, near the hills between that city and Pasadena, and despite her most painstaking care had failed to mend. It was turned over to me as of possible interest, and proved to be *Toxostoma bendirei* (Coues).

The specimen was submitted in final appeal to Messrs. Grinnell and Swarth of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at Berkeley, who consider it a juvenal of the year, just molting into first winter plumage. Mr. Grinnell raises the question of possible artificial introduction as a caged bird, a natural question in view of the sedentary habit of the species in its normal habitat. The superb musical powers of the species would make it a desirable cage bird, but, in a somewhat extensive collecting experience over southern Arizona, although I found Cardinals and House Finches used in this way, the thrashers never were.

With the consent of Mrs. Myers the specimen is deposited in the University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology where it is catalogued as No. 23259.—LOYE MILLER.

Birds New to the Vicinity of Lake Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai County, Idaho.—

Colymbus nigricollis californicus. Adult specimen examined October 9, 1912.

Gavia lumme. Young female specimen examined October 6, 1912.

Oidemia perspicillata. Adult male specimen examined October 9, 1912.

Bubo virginianus arcticus. Two adult specimens examined October 8, 1912.

Falco mexicanus. Fine specimen examined November 6, 1912. Not new in this locality but very scarce.—H. J. RUST.

White-throated Sparrow in Western Washington.—On October 13 I had the good fortune to collect a female White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) at Sherlock, Thurston County, Washington, the first record, I believe, for any point on the Pacific Coast north of Oregon. This bird was with a big flock of *Z. l. nuttalli*, which had begun to arrive the previous afternoon. This migration was an odd occurrence in itself, as all the local breeding Nuttall Sparrows had left several weeks before.—J. H. BOWLES.

Some Late Nesting Notes from the Huachuca Mountains, Arizona.—On July 29, while locating a site for a wood cutter's camp I heard the "whip-popper" note of a Palmer Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre palmeri*), and on looking into the only cholla in sight found the nest and two fresh eggs. Two weeks later the latter had hatched, and during September and October I saw the young birds frequently about the camp, whenever I happened out there.

September 1 I was in Ramsay Canyon for a few hours, and from force of habit, spent part of the time looking around a bit. On the lard bucket bail which I had hung up in the identical place from which I had taken my set of Blue-throated Hummingbird (*Cyanolaemus clemenciae*), previously recorded in THE CONDOR, I found a new nest and two well feathered young. A week later, they were still in the nest but almost able to fly. Their backs showed the green shades very nicely, and there was a slight darkening on the throat of one, somewhat in the nature of specks. I took photos of them, hanging the nest down in the light for that purpose. They fluttered out as I took them down, but remained quiet after being replaced.

October 4, my uncle, Mr. F. N. Wolcott, while deer hunting, flushed a Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba f. fasciata*) from its nest in a small oak. The one egg was fresh. I tried to locate the place a week later but found only an empty nest which may or may not have been the one he saw.—F. C. WILLARD.

More Band-tailed Pigeon Notes.—On a recent trip to San Luis Obispo I gathered

some more apparently authentic information which is worthy of recording, furnished me by a person whose name will be withheld for the present. San Luis Obispo was the main outfitting station for the pigeon hunting during the great flight of 1911-12.

One market hunter, shooting for the San Francisco market, killed 280 pigeons under one oak in one day. This same hunter was shooting every day during the flight, so it can be imagined what a number he must have killed. One dealer in ammunition sold 3500 shotgun shells for one day's hunt, and he says that on that day the individuals on this excursion brought in 1560 birds. These figures, together with the note previously published in *THE CONDOR* (xiv, 1912, p. 108), will give some idea of the extent of the slaughter. I firmly believe that these figures are not exaggerated, and that they are not far from the truth.

Hunters are now reporting a few pigeons at San Luis Obispo and at Santa Barbara. The first noted each year are termed scouts by the old hunters, who believe that the main army sends scouts on ahead to report on food conditions. The hunters are looking for another big flight this winter.

I will be in this country regularly during the coming season, and will keep a close watch on this beautiful but apparently doomed bird.—W. LEE CHAMBERS.

No-Sale of American-killed Wild Game.—Readers of *THE CONDOR*, and especially members of the Cooper Club, should take every opportunity to correct impressions which are being distributed broadcast apropos the effect of a "No-sale" law.

It has even been said that this measure is "class legislation." Laws which *permit* the sale of game are, it is true, class legislation of the worst type. They permit a few hundred market gunners, and the wealthy hotel and cafe patrons who are financially able to purchase game to reap the benefits of that which is protected at the instance of all people of the state. They are also allowing the rapid extermination of our best native species. Every animal which has been allowed to be exploited for profit has been practically exterminated. Even the whales of the sea are no exception! Remember the sea otter, the buffalo, the passenger pigeon!

To allow of the unlimited sale of game in California, as Assemblymen Harry Polsley of Red Bluff and Milton Schmidt of San Francisco desire, would be to cause its utter extermination within ten years.

Letters on file in the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology indicate that ducks and geese have decreased from fifty to ninety-five per cent in the San Joaquin Valley in the last ten years.

We must have No-sale, and we must have it immediately.—W. P. TAYLOR.

An Unfortunate Dove.—On Monday, June 17, 1912, near Goose Lake in Modoc County, I found the body of a Mourning Dove which had met death as the result of a very peculiar misfortune. The bird was found on a horizontal beam four inches wide in an

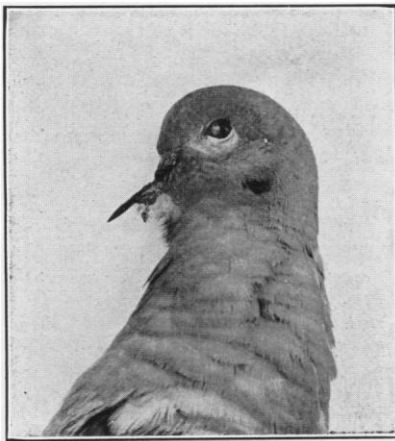


Fig. 8. AN UNFORTUNATE DOVE

old deserted barn. It was facing the wall, i. e., lying crosswise of the beam, with the tail hanging over and closely hugging the side of the timber, as though its death throes were concerned with maintaining its precarious position. The cause of death was not far to seek. The upper mandible had been jammed backward and downward through or behind the ramus of the lower one, whence it could not be retracted. Not only so, but skinning showed that the windpipe had been caught and skewered, and pushed forward along with the distended skin of the mentum. The bird was in a very emaciated condition, insomuch that the skin was very largely adherent to the flesh, and the end of the breastbone touched the anus. The viscera were a green mass, which for fear of poisoning we did not dissect for sex indication; but the bird seemed recently dead, inasmuch as there was no offensive smell, and the feathers were firmly in place. Moreover, no insect pests had begun to attack it.

Mr. Allan Brooks, who has examined the specimen, is of opinion that its plight was due to a recent head-on collision with a telegraph wire, and cites the example of a Western Chipping Sparrow whose bill was in exactly similar condition save that the wind

pipe was not involved. This dove, moreover, was a last year's bird, so that its peculiar harp could not have been due to a misguided paroxysm of parental regurgitation as I was at first inclined to surmise.—W. LEON DAWSON.

The Supposed Occurrence of the Blue Goose in California.—The recurring statement that the Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) is of casual or occasional occurrence in California, an assertion which, on rather weak evidence, has had wide acceptance, renders it particularly desirable that the capture of every bird supposed to belong to this species be investigated, and the identity of the specimen be thoroughly established. This, however, is not always possible, as the birds on which hunters' statements are based are seldom saved long enough to afford an opportunity for examination.

The present remarks are incited by a recent instance, in which the capture of a Blue Goose appeared to be well authenticated, and which may serve as a demonstration of the extreme care to be used in accepting records whereby closely similar species may be confused.

A letter was received from F. J. Smith, of Eureka, Humboldt County, California, stating that he had in his possession a specimen of the Blue Goose, taken in that vicinity, on October 22, 1908, and requesting permission to send it to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology in order that his identification be confirmed. The bird arrived soon after, and was carefully examined. Although the Museum collection contains no specimens of *Chen caerulescens*, it does contain a fairly large series of *Chen hyperboreus hyperboreus*, and on comparison the supposed Blue Goose proved to be a bird of this form, in the grayish, immature, plumage.

A search through descriptive literature failed to bring to light any statement clearly defining differences between the immature plumage of *caerulescens* and *hyperboreus*, and the question naturally arises as to whether previous supposed instances of the occurrence of *caerulescens* in California have not also been founded upon young birds of *hyperboreus*, the two forms being so very similar in this stage.

The Blue Goose was first included in the list of California birds upon the strength of the statement by Belding (Zoe, III, 1892, p. 97) regarding the capture of two specimens near Stockton, February 1, 1892. Fragments of one of them, head, neck, wings and legs, were submitted to Mr. Ridgway, and by him pronounced to be juvenile *caerulescens*. While the authority in support of this record is thus of the highest degree, still, considering the apparently close similarity of the two species *hyperboreus* and *caerulescens* in the immature plumage, and the absence of corroborative evidence since the time of Belding's record, we are surely justified in demanding stronger proof of the occurrence of the Blue Goose in California.

The specimen suggesting these remarks is an example of the ease with which mistakes in identification can be made. From written descriptions alone there was nothing to disprove its being *caerulescens*, either that species in immature plumage having no distinctive peculiarities serving to distinguish it from the same stage of *hyperboreus*, or else such differences having never been clearly set forth; but comparison with examples of *hyperboreus* unmistakably demonstrated the fact of its belonging to this species.—H. S. SWARTH.

The Black-chinned Hummingbird in Marin County, California.—While driving along the road at San Geronimo, Marin County, California, one day last spring (1912) I was hailed by C. A. Allen, who came out of his house to tell me of having noticed a strange hummingbird among the usual number of Allens and Annas that nest in his yard every year, and that he had finally captured it. This stranger turned out to be a male Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*), and is the first record of this species in Marin County, as it does not seem to take kindly to the humid coast belt, but works its way to its northern limit by following the more interior valleys. Mr. Allen said he thought we ought to have the specimen on account of our having been so closely associated with Marin County for so many years, but he was collecting for Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., at the moment, and felt that the specimen must go to him. Soon after receiving it Dr. Dwight wrote me of the circumstances, and said that he felt as if he were encroaching on our preserves, that the place for it was in our collection (Coll. of J. & J. W. Mailliard), and that it should be recorded by one of us. In due course the specimen arrived, and is now in the place where Dr. Dwight thought it ought to be. I mention these details in order to show our appreciation of the graceful courtesy thus shown to us—a sort of courtesy that ever should but does not always exist among collectors. The date on which this hummingbird was taken was March 3, 1912.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD.